



*“Faith in the resurrection
opens up fraternal communion
beyond the threshold of death ...”.*
(RoL 24)



Today, 25 October 2023 at 7.00 pm
at the Hospital of Negrar (VR), our sister
LUCIA, sr M. FERDINANDA PELLEGRINI
has parted this earthly life.
She was 85 years old and 61 years of religious life.

Stay awake and stand ready! This phrase taken from the Alleluia verse of the day, expresses the attitude of "watching", which Sr Lucia developed as a Pastorella and left as a testimony of a generative watching, an openness of mind in desiring and enjoying the encounter with the Good Shepherd.

Lucia was born on 5 February 1938 in Verla di Giovo (TN) and was baptized on 7 February 1938 in the parish of Verla dedicated to Santa Maria Assunta. She entered the Congregation, in Albano Laziale – Mother House, on 5 September 1960 and the novitiate on 2 September 1961. She made her first profession on 3 September 1962 taking the name of M. Ferdinanda. She took her final vows on 3 September 1967, again in Albano Laziale - Mother House. In the application to receive the religious habit on 29 June 1961, she wrote: *I am very happy and I thank Jesus Good Shepherd so much who, among many, has chosen me, his poor daughter. I promise, with the grace of Jesus, to commit myself to being a true Pastorella, according to the heart of Jesus Good Shepherd.*

Immediately after her first profession, she was sent to the apostolate to various Italian communities carrying out different tasks. In 1962 she was in the community of Cinte Tesino (TN) for her training as a Kindergarten teacher and she remained there for about a year. In 1963 she was transferred to Ferrere d'Asti (AT) where she dedicated herself mainly to teaching in the kindergarten; in 1964 she moved to Ricigliano (SA) where she also served as superior of the community. In 1975 she was sent to the community of Transacqua where she remained until 1986 and she also served as superior of the community. In 1987 she was in Trento where she remained for about ten years carrying out pastoral work mainly in the A. Tambosi Child Care and she was also superior of the community. In 1997 she was sent to Capoliveri (LI) where she dedicated herself to family pastoral ministry and in 1998, she spent a sabbatical time in the community of Negrar (VR).

After this time of renewal, she continued her ministry in the following communities: 1999 in Capoliveri (LI) in family pastoral care; 2007 in Civè di Correzzola (PD) again in family ministry; 2016 in Negrar (VR) in various roles; 2018 Medolla (MO) in the field of pastoral care with the elderly and the sick, and in 2019 she returned to the community of Negrar (VR), where she carried out some services until 2023 when her illness made her fragile and in need of care. This she accepted with serenity and gratitude towards the sisters and the medical staff at all times.

We thank the sisters of the Negrar community and the staff who cared for Sr Lucia with great love and dedication and helped her make her passing peaceful, as some sisters of the community describe it: *Lucia has been a testimony of the goodness of the Good Shepherd for our community of Negrar. And a testimony of serenity in her illness and suffering, especially in this last stretch of her earthly life, when she was forced to constantly be hospitalized. One day the medical and nursing staff said of Sr Lucia that she didn't even seem like a human person but a person from heaven, she never complained and she was grateful for everything. When we went to visit her and asked her how she was, she would say: Today I feel like a "siora" (lady).*

From the time of her initial formation, Lucia has been described as a sister of deep piety, a joyful, optimistic, positive, simple, hard-working person, a lover of community life, and zealous in pastoral ministry, particularly with children, young people, and families. The sisters describe her as a sister who inspired confidence, as did her numerous poetic rhymes that accompanied our major family celebrations. Her serene and confident character could be seen even in her time of illness. The doctors and those who took care of her also witnessed this.

Dearest Sister Lucia, as we entrust you to the Father's Mercy, we thank the Good Shepherd for the gift you have been for us and for the Church in your life as a joyful and faithful Pastorella. We ask you to intercede for the gift of Peace and solidarity for the many families affected by the ongoing wars.

Sr Aminta Sarmiento Puentes
Superior General

Rome, 23 October 2023
St Chrysanthus and Daria, martyrs